GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3611
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2005
STOLEN ID CARDS
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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that ID cards of a large number of army personnel have been stolen in trains/buses or robbed by militants/terrorists in the past few months;

(b) if so, whether the militants/terrorists are using such stolen/robbed ID cards in Defence establishments and in general public;

(c) if so, the facts thereof; and

(d) the strategies to be adopted to check such stolen/robbed ID cards of army personnel are not misused?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) to (d): A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3611 FOR 18.8.2005

A few cases of loss of Identity (ID) cards are reported from time to time. An ID Card is an accountable document the loss of which is taken seriously and investigated by a Court of Inquiry and suitable action taken against the personnel who lost it. No case of militants using stolen ID Cards has come to light, so far. However, following measures have been taken to guard against the loss of an ID Card by Army personnel while traveling in trains/buses:

- Warning messages against the threat of drugging, on Close Circuit TVs and audio equipment at Railway Stations and Bus Terminals.

- Displaying suitable posters on the subject at the office of Movement Control Officer (MCO). Troops are also informed about various safety precautions that they require to take during the move.

- Education of troops during Sainik Sammelans including issue of leave certificate with suitably worded warning against the threat of drugging.

- Wherever possible units/Head Quarters have been directed to ensure that troops carry packed food and water for the journey period so that incidents of drugging are minimized.

- Instructions have also been issued to carry out selective patrolling of sensitive Railway Stations/Bus Terminals.

The ID Cards bear a photograph, signature and thumb impression of the holder which is checked before entry to the Defence Establishment. The Identity Card is laminated and the Photograph is duly authenticated with the office seal before issue to the army personnel. Any attempt to remove the lamination and falsify the Identity Card will cause damage to the Card and it is unlikely that the stolen ID Card will be falsified and misused.